



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM H. BEARDSLEY
ACTING COMMISSIONER

Exhibit: #VI.C.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: William H. Beardsley, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: April 13, 2016

SUBJECT: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Site Approval Consideration*;
RSU #75-Mt. Ararat High School Construction Project

STATEMENT OF FACT

Superintendent of Schools, Bradley Smith, requests that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval for a high school construction project located in Topsham, Maine.

The school is proposed to be located on a 113 acre campus, home of the existing Mt. Ararat High School, Mt. Ararat Middle School, administrative offices and other district facilities. There is adequate buildable acreage to support an addition or new facility. The site is centrally located in the district and well established in the social context of the community. It benefits from good access and is well served by utility and transportation infrastructure. Site investigations and environmental analysis studies have been conducted and have not revealed any issues of significance. A completed Site Application is on file with the Department of Education and meets all the needed criteria of the State Board of Education's Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects. The architects and engineers have met with all the required state and local agencies and they have responded positively to the proposed project.

New vs. Renovations analysis of the existing Mt. Ararat High School has been completed with a recommendation of new construction. The advantages of new construction are: less disruption to students and staff, less time for construction, better long-term value and flexibility for future growth, and lowest estimated total project cost.

In a public meeting on January 21, 2016, constructing a new facility on this site was endorsed by a vote of 85 to 0.

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Exhibit #VI.C.
Site Approval Consideration; RSU #75
Mt. Ararat High School Construction Project
Date: April 13, 2016

Project Information:

Project: RSU #75 High School Construction Project
Superintendent: Bradley Smith
Architect: Portland Design Team – Lyndon Keck
Total number of acres: 113
Total Purchase Cost: \$0

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION

The Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU #75 for a high school construction project on RSU owned property according to the provisions of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On April 1, 2016, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Site Approval to RSU #75 for a high school construction project on RSU owned property according to the provisions of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.